

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 26, 2000
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 27, 2000

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2827

**Introduced by Assembly Member Cardoza
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Florez, Mazzoni, and
Wiggins)**

February 28, 2000

An act to add Article 5 (commencing with Section 9900) to Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 3 of the Unemployment Insurance Code, relating to employment development, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2827, as amended, Cardoza. Employment Development Department: Jobs for California Graduates Program.

Existing law provides for various employment development programs administered by the Employment Development Department.

This bill would permit the department to contract with a private, nonprofit organization meeting specified criteria to manage grant programs designed to help eligible at-risk youth complete their secondary education and acquire the skills necessary to successfully transition into the workforce.

This bill would appropriate ~~\$3,000,000~~ \$2,000,000 from the General Fund to the department for the purposes of the

program, and declare the intent of the Legislature that moneys necessary for funding the program in future fiscal years be appropriated in the annual Budget Act.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares as
2 follows:

3 (a) Recent studies show that as many as 50 percent or
4 more of youth drop out of high school prior to graduation
5 in many areas of the state.

6 (b) Youth who face multiple social and economic
7 barriers are most at risk of dropping out of high school and
8 failing to transition successfully into the workforce.

9 (c) Because of the financial constraints placed on
10 schools in providing the necessary individualized
11 attention, youth with multiple social and economic
12 barriers often fail to succeed in even the best educational
13 systems.

14 (d) Youth who do not complete their secondary
15 education often lack the skills necessary to qualify for
16 most available job openings. Many youths who do
17 graduate often still lack fundamental work skills and
18 attributes that employers are seeking.

19 (e) The earning potential of a high school graduate is
20 23 percent more than a youth who does not complete his
21 or her secondary education.

22 (f) Youths who lack the fundamental skills to obtain a
23 quality job are more likely to be involved in substance
24 abuse or criminal activities, threatening themselves and
25 everyone around them.

26 (g) With the booming California economy, employers
27 are facing a critical shortage in the labor market and are
28 forced to compete for qualified entry-level employees.

29 (h) The Legislature has an interest in providing
30 assistance to those youths who can benefit most from the
31 individualized attention and transitional services needed

1 to help them complete their secondary education and
2 successfully advance into the workplace.

3 (i) While many of the education programs serving
4 at-risk youth are designed to serve all youth, most are not
5 designed with an accountability system that enables state
6 and local policymakers to quantify the results of the
7 program. Thus, millions of taxpayer dollars are spent
8 every year without a reliable mechanism for determining
9 the return on the taxpayer's dollar.

10 (j) To ensure that California's most at-risk youth
11 receive the help they need to complete their secondary
12 education and to gain basic employability skills, and that
13 taxpayers and policymakers can monitor the return on
14 their investment in publicly supported programs, it is in
15 the interest of the state to support a national model
16 program for at-risk youth that has demonstrated a strong
17 performance record in successfully achieving these
18 outcomes.

19 (k) Jobs for California Graduates (JCG), the pilot
20 project based on Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG), a
21 national model program for at-risk youth, has
22 demonstrated remarkable success. The local program in
23 Merced County has been operating for the last 10 years
24 with success rates of 90 percent graduation and over 80
25 percent job or college enrollment.

26 SEC. 2. Article 5 (commencing with Section 9900) is
27 added to Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 3 of the
28 Unemployment Insurance Code, to read:

29

30 Article 5. Jobs for California Graduates Program

31

32 9900. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting
33 this article to support the expansion of the Jobs for
34 California Graduates pilot project in Merced into a
35 statewide system of local programs based on the Jobs for
36 America's Graduates model. The Jobs for California
37 Graduates nonprofit, public-private partnership will
38 create a network of local programs to help California's
39 at-risk youth complete their secondary education and



1 acquire the basic skills necessary to successfully transition
2 into the workforce or enroll in postsecondary education.

3 (b) The director of the Employment Development
4 Department, from funds appropriated for this purpose to
5 the Jobs for California Graduates Program, may make
6 grants to applicants for the purpose of carrying out
7 programs as authorized by this article. ~~For the purpose of~~
8 ~~administering and managing the grantmaking process;~~
9 *The director shall develop criteria for ranking grant*
10 *applications, and performance standards and auditing*
11 *procedures for evaluating the effectiveness of the grants.*
12 The director may contract with a qualified nonprofit
13 corporation designated by the national organization, Jobs
14 for America's Graduates, to provide technical assistance
15 to Jobs for California Graduates local programs.

16 (c) The statewide system of Jobs for California
17 Graduates local programs shall be designed to accomplish
18 all of the following goals:

19 (1) To decrease absenteeism rates for at-risk youth.

20 (2) To improve the performance of at-risk youth in
21 school and in the workplace.

22 (3) To improve secondary education completion rates.

23 (4) To improve employability skills of at-risk youth.

24 (5) To improve employment placement rates for
25 at-risk youth.

26 (6) To improve enrollment rates of at-risk youth in
27 postsecondary education and training.

28 9901. (a) In order to encourage a statewide system of
29 long-lasting, self-sustaining model local programs,
30 communities served pursuant to this article shall
31 contribute in-kind and financial resources in direct
32 support of the model local program, according to the
33 following schedule:

34 (1) During its initial year of implementation, a Jobs for
35 California Graduates local program may receive state
36 funds in an amount equal to 100 percent of the costs of
37 implementing each Jobs for California Graduates
38 program site, but not to exceed sixty thousand dollars
39 (\$60,000).

(2) During any year subsequent to the initial year of implementation, a model local program may receive state funds in the amount equal to 75 percent of the costs of implementing the model local program, but not to exceed forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000).

(b) Community partners providing matching resources to the model local programs may include private nonprofit corporations, community-based organizations, workforce investment agencies, school districts, and other public and private sources.

9902. Local affiliates of the Jobs for California Graduates Program shall include all of the following elements:

(a) (1) A trained youth specialist employed year-round providing individual and group instruction to 25 to 45 eligible youth recruited and selected by a school-based advisory committee comprising faculty, administrators, and counselors.

(2) The youth specialist shall provide individual attention to students to help them overcome barriers preventing them from receiving a high school diploma or securing employment, or both, or pursuing a postsecondary education that will lead to a career.

(3) The youth specialist shall provide informal guidance to students on academic, career, and life decisions and, based on the individual needs of students, connect them to professional counseling services to address more serious barriers, such as mental health problems or drug abuse.

(4) The youth specialist shall be actively involved in intensive, one-on-one employer marketing and job development activities to identify entry-level job opportunities for students upon graduation. Likewise, the youth specialist shall assist graduates in the exploration of postsecondary education opportunities and help them navigate the financial aid process to pursue these opportunities.

(b) Youth shall be taught a minimum of 37 employment competencies designed to prepare them to secure a quality entry-level job or pursue a postsecondary

1 education, or both, upon completion of their secondary
2 education.

3 (c) Placement services shall be provided to students
4 during the summer months or partnerships developed
5 with summer youth employment programs to support
6 yearlong learning. Youth specialists shall maintain
7 contact with youth during the summer months.

8 (d) A student-led organization, associated with a state
9 and national association, shall build on the
10 competency-based curriculum and provide the
11 opportunity for students to develop, practice, and refine
12 their leadership and team membership skills.

13 (e) It shall serve as a school-based “one-stop center”
14 for participating at-risk youth to ensure that they receive
15 appropriate academic and social services from available
16 resources in the school and community.

17 (f) It shall provide no less than 12 months of followup
18 and support on the job and in postsecondary education
19 after leaving the school.

20 (g) It shall provide computerized tracking of youth
21 served, services delivered and performance outcomes,
22 such as graduation rate, positive outcome rates,
23 aggregate employment rate, full-time jobs rate, full-time
24 placement rate, further education rate, wages, and return
25 to school rate, at local and state levels.

26 (h) It shall provide continuous improvement of results
27 through the ongoing professional development of
28 managers, supervisors, and specialists.

29 9903. (a) Entities eligible to conduct a Jobs for
30 California Graduates local program shall include, but
31 need not be limited to, local education agencies,
32 community colleges, and nonprofit organizations with an
33 interest in serving at-risk youth.

34 (b) To maintain eligibility after the initial year of
35 implementation, participating entities shall conduct the
36 Jobs for California Graduates Program in accordance
37 with Jobs for America’s Graduates performance
38 standards, receiving no less than a “Meets Standards”
39 rating on an accreditation review.

1 9904. To be eligible to receive services through a Jobs
2 for California Graduates local program under this article,
3 a youth shall meet at least two of the following criteria:

4 (a) One or more years behind modal grade for one's
5 age group, with particular emphasis on those two or more
6 years behind modal grade.

7 (b) Below average academic grade point average
8 relative to students in his or her class.

9 (c) Above average number of absences during the
10 past school year in comparison to other students in the
11 school.

12 (d) Placed on probation, suspended, or expelled from
13 school one or more times during the past two years.

14 (e) Pregnant or parenting teen.

15 (f) Physically or mentally challenged.

16 (g) Involved with substance abuse or criminal
17 activities.

18 (h) Member of an economically disadvantaged family.

19 (i) Lives with only one or neither of his or her natural
20 parents.

21 (j) Receives little or no academic or social support
22 from home or family.

23 (k) Mother has not graduated from high school.

24 (l) Closest friends have limited educational
25 expectations. For example, they do not expect to
26 graduate from high school or have already dropped out
27 of high school.

28 9905. (a) For purposes of establishing and expanding
29 programs throughout California, the department shall, to
30 the extent feasible, make local grants available among
31 regions of the state equally.

32 (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), it is the intent of
33 the Legislature that Jobs for California Graduates local
34 programs be conducted in a broad range of settings,
35 including urban, suburban, and rural districts, which are
36 representative of all California youth during the initial
37 year of the statewide program, in order to test the
38 effectiveness of the model local programs throughout the
39 state.

1 9907. (a) The organization responsible for statewide
2 accountability, as described in Section 9906, shall submit
3 an annual report to the department on the performance
4 outcomes of the Jobs for California Graduates local
5 programs on an annual basis.

6 (b) At a minimum, the organization responsible for
7 statewide accountability shall report the following
8 outcomes at the end of the 12-month followup period:

9 (1) Secondary education completion rate as compared
10 to the Jobs for America's Graduates standard of 90
11 percent for senior participants.

12 (2) Positive outcomes rate, such as youth employed,
13 enrolled in a postsecondary institution, or serving in the
14 military, or all of these, as compared to the Jobs for
15 America's Graduates standard of 80 percent positive
16 outcomes for graduates.

17 (3) Full-time placement rate, such as youth engaged
18 in full-time employment, full-time military, or combining
19 postsecondary education with employment.

20 (4) All other participant outcomes as required by the
21 Governor under Section 122(h) of the federal Workforce
22 Investment Act of 1998.

23 9908. State funds made available pursuant to this
24 article shall be used to carry out both of the following:

25 (a) The Jobs for California Graduates local program
26 elements specified in Section 9902.

27 (b) Statewide management and technical assistance
28 activities, including, but not limited to, all of the
29 following:

30 (1) Operation of a state office, including the hiring of
31 staff, that shall be responsible for managing and
32 monitoring model local program compliance.

33 (2) Conducting research and evaluation of all Jobs for
34 California Graduates local programs, retaining a
35 third-party provider as appropriate.

36 (3) Making available statewide training and
37 development opportunities for consistent, effective
38 statewide implementation of the model local programs.

39 (4) Conducting educational and outreach activities to
40 engage private and public sector employers, secondary

1 and postsecondary educational institutions, the military,
2 state and local elected officials, community and social
3 service organizations, and other interested parties.

4 (5) Conducting statewide activities for students,
5 including, at a minimum, a state leadership development
6 conference and a state career development conference.

7 (6) Providing for the continuous improvement of
8 model local program performance outcomes.

9 (7) Developing and maintaining state and local
10 partnerships with private and public employers,
11 secondary and postsecondary educational institutions,
12 and community and social services organizations.

13 (8) Providing other support and oversight to promote
14 the continuous improvement of Jobs for California
15 Graduates local programs.

16 (9) Directly operating local programs as appropriate.

17 SEC. 3. (a) The sum of ~~three million dollars~~
18 ~~(\$3,000,000)~~ *two million dollars (\$2,000,000)* is hereby
19 appropriated from the General Fund to the Employment
20 Development Department for the purposes of the
21 statewide Jobs for California Graduates Program
22 established pursuant to Article 5 (commencing with
23 Section 9900) of Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 3 of the
24 Unemployment Insurance Code, as added by Section 2 of
25 this act.

26 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that moneys
27 necessary for funding the statewide youth development
28 program in future fiscal years be appropriated in the
29 annual Budget Act.